WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An information recording medium comprising:

a system lead-in area;

a data lead-in area; and

a data area, wherein

information is recorded in the system lead-in area in the form of embossed pits; and

a track pitch and a shortest pit pitch of embossed pits in the system lead-in area are greater than a track pitch and a shortest pit pitch in the data lead-in area and data area.

2. An information reproducing apparatus which reproduces an information from an information recording medium comprising a system lead-in area, a data lead-in area, and a data area, wherein information is recorded in the system lead-in area in the form of embossed pits and a track pitch and a shortest pit pitch of embossed pits in the system lead-in area are greater than a track pitch and a shortest pit pitch in the data lead-in area and data area, the apparatus comprising:

a level slice unit which detects a signal from the system lead-in area of the information recording medium in accordance with a level slice technique, and

a partial response likelihood technique unit which detects a signal from at least one of the data lead-in area and data area in accordance with a partial response likelihood technique.

3. An information recording and/or reproducing apparatus which records and/or reproduces a signal using an information recording medium comprising a system lead-in area; a data lead-in area; and a data area, wherein information is recorded in the system lead-in area in the form of embossed pits; and a track pitch and a shortest pit pitch of embossed pits in the system lead-in area are greater than a track pitch and a shortest pit pitch in the data lead-in area and data area, the apparatus comprising:

a level slice unit which detects a signal from the system lead-in area of the information recording medium in accordance with a level slice technique, and

a partial response likelihood technique unit which detects a signal from at least one of the data lead-in area and data area in accordance with a partial response likelihood technique.